

## Executive Message.

PROCLAMATION OF MIRIAM A.  
FERGUSON DISAPPROVING AND  
VETOING SENATE BILL  
NO. 175.

To the Thirty-ninth Legislature, composed of the Texas State Senate and the House of Representatives:

Gentlemen: This is to officially advise that I have this, the 21st day of February, 1925, disapproved and vetoed Senate Bill No. 175, being an Act by the Thirty-ninth Legislature relating to the railroad transportation and generally known as the "Free Pass Bill;" and my reasons for so doing are:

While I do not question the sincerity of those who voted for this measure, yet I feel that if this bill was to become a law that the sainted Jim Hogg has lived in vain. Though I regret to differ with some of my friends whose purpose I do not question, yet in my opinion the free pass proposition is wrong in principle.

As a matter of public policy there is good reason for railroad employes and their families who maintain the railroads, and for peace officers who protect the rights and property of our citizens to ride upon a free pass. But the case of members of the Legislature and their families being permitted to accept free transportation from the railroads involves a different principle.

Let us state the proposition in another way and see if the principle stated is not correct. Let it be understood that nobody wants a free pass except for the reason that it saves to the party riding the free pass a money consideration. If there was no money to be saved by the transaction, nobody would give the snap of their finger for a railroad pass. Suppose for instance that a president of a railroad should go to the members of the Leg-

islature or to the Lieutenant Governor and say to them; "my railroad wants you to accept from the treasury of my company a free donation, \$250.00 in cash." Would anybody then contend that it would be proper for such member of the Legislature to receive this gift from the railroad. However innocent of corrupt intention there might be on either the part of the railroad or the member of the Legislature, nobody would care to be represented in the Legislature by a member who had permitted the railroad to make in this manner a gift of money.

Now then what is the difference in accepting money and accepting a free pass which saves money? No matter from what angle we view the question we are still confronted with the fact that a free pass means free money, and the giving of that which it takes money to buy is just the same as giving the money itself.

This bill not only permits free transportation to members of the Legislature, but also permits it to the families of such members without respect to numbers. This would lead to abuses sure and certain. Either too many families would ride that ought not be permitted to ride, or the railroads would be required to carry too many such families against their will. If it was done with the approval of the railroads then they would expect in some way to get returns for such free service. If it was done against their will then by official intimidation they would be forced to give their services without consideration. It would likely be that free pass might destroy free membership in the Legislature.

On the broad ground of public policy I can not see my way to let this

bill become a law, and for that reason it is disapproved and vetoed, and it is so entered.

MIRIAM A. FERGUSON,  
Governor of Texas.